

Claims

- 5      1. The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for selectively increasing the production of propionate in the gastro-intestinal tract of a mammal.
- 10     2. The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for decreasing blood cholesterol levels in a mammal.
- 15     3. The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for decreasing blood triglyceride levels in a mammal.
- 20     4. The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for decreasing very low density lipoprotein levels in a mammal.
- 25     5. The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for increasing high density lipoprotein levels in a mammal.
- 30     6. The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for increasing insulin sensitivity in a mammal.
7. The use according to any of claims 1 to 6 in which the dextran is a high molecular weight dextran having a molecular weight above about 500000.
8. The use according to any of claims 1 to 7 in which the nutritional composition further comprises inulin, fructo-oligo saccharide, galacto-oligosaccharides, or xylo-oligosaccharides, or mixtures thereof.
9. The use according to any of claims 1 to 8 in which the nutritional composition further comprises a lipid source which is rich in monounsaturated fatty acids and poor in saturated fatty acids.

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